

## Wisconsin Farm Numbers Remain Steady

The number of farms in Wisconsin totaled 78,000 farms unchanged from last year. The total land in farms, however, continues a slow decline. Land in farms is estimated at 16.3 million acres, down 100,000 acres from last year. The average size of a farm in the state is 209 acres down 1 acre from last year but the same as 1997.

A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would be normally sold during the year." Agricultural production includes livestock and livestock products, fruit, vegetables, crops, greenhouse and nursery products, Christmas trees, fish, and government payments for farm programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program.

Farms size and numbers for the calendar year 1999 are reported by economic sales classes based on their gross sales of agricultural products. By economic class, the largest number of farms (35,000) have gross sales between \$1,000 and \$9,999. Farms with over \$100,000 gross sales represent only 23 percent of all farms. As would be expected, these farms are also the largest farms in the state with an average size of a farm set at 483 acres per farm. For farms with gross sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999, the average size of a farm was 188 acres and represented 32 percent of the total farmland in the state. Farms in the \$100,000 plus group account for 53 percent of the total land in farms. The farms with less than \$10,000 in gross sales account for only 18 percent of the total farmland.

### Farms by Economic Sales Class United States, 1998-99

Economic class gross value of sales	Percent of total				Average size of farms	
	Farms		Land			
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Percent				Acres	
\$ 1,000-\$ 2,499	26.9	27.2	4.4	4.6	71	73
\$ 2,500-\$ 4,999	14.6	15.0	4.4	4.4	131	127
\$ 5,000-\$ 9,999	12.4	12.3	5.2	5.1	182	179
\$ 10,000-\$ 19,999	10.0	10.2	5.9	6.0	257	254
\$ 20,000-\$ 39,999	9.0	8.5	7.4	7.5	358	381
\$ 40,000-\$ 99,999	10.8	10.9	16.8	16.9	677	669
\$100,000-\$249,999	9.0	9.2	23.8	23.2	1,151	1,089
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.2	3.7	14.6	13.3	1,513	1,552
\$500,000 +	3.1	3.0	17.5	19.0	2,456	2,735
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	435	432

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

## Number of Farms and Land in Farms

Year	Wisconsin			United States		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres
1950	174	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202
1955	155	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,202
1960	138	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,176
1965	124	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,140
1970	110	183	20.1	2,949	374	1,102
1975 1/	100	193	19.3	2,521	420	1,059
1980	93	200	18.6	2,440	426	1,039
1985	83	216	17.9	2,293	441	1,012
1986	82	217	17.8	2,250	447	1,005
1987	81	219	17.7	2,213	451	999
1988	82	216	17.7	2,201	452	994
1989	81	217	17.6	2,175	456	991
1990	80	220	17.6	2,146	460	987
1991	79	222	17.5	2,117	464	982
1992	79	219	17.3	2,108	464	979
1993	80	214	17.1	2,202	440	969
1994	80	211	16.9	2,198	440	966
1995	80	210	16.8	2,196	438	963
1996	79	210	16.6	2,191	438	959
1997	79	209	16.5	2,191	436	956
1998	78	210	16.4	2,191	435	954
1999	78	209	16.3	2,194	432	947

1/Estimate from 1975 on: A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

### Farms by Economic Sales Class Wisconsin, 1998-99

Economic class gross value of sales	Farms		Land		Average size of farms	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Number		Thousand acres		Acres	
\$1,000-\$9,999	34,000	35,000	2,800	2,900	82	83
\$10,000-\$39,999	13,500	13,300	2,000	1,900	148	143
\$40,000-\$99,999	12,000	11,700	2,800	2,800	233	239
\$100,000 +	18,500	18,000	8,800	8,700	476	483
Total	78,000	78,000	16,400	16,300	210	209

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.